

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to be here today following the address of President Bush to our colleagues and to the Nation regarding his priorities and where he hopes to take our Nation in the next 4 years during his administration.

Let me first commend him for identifying and discussing a number of issues that I would expect Democrats and Republicans to agree on wholeheartedly.

He mentioned Head Start specifically. He talked about the environment. He talked about a military pay increase for the personnel first before we buy new equipment.

He talked about our continuing efforts to increase the budget at the National Institutes of Health. He pledged to restore integrity to the Social Security system. He offered what is a blueprint for Medicare reform, and specifically one piece that was music to my ears, an effort to pay down the national debt.

Now, if we listened to the other side of the aisle this morning, those baying at the moon, suggesting somehow that this is an irresponsible blueprint of fiscal remedy, who have argued against tax cuts, argued for more spending and consistently raised rhetoric that somehow this whole process is irresponsible from the start, it begs the question. Whose money is it really? If you stay around Washington or any of our capital cities around the country and you remain in the room with politicians for very long, they will convince you it is government's money.

That theme plays out today on national talk radio as they launch an aggressive attack to demean the President's proposal, again suggesting it is irresponsible and telling us that they have a better plan.

Having come to Congress in 1994, I remember the legacy left us by the majority party, at that time the Democratic Party, which was a ballooning deficit, out-of-control debt, increasing allocations annually for interest to pay on the debt, no ability to reign in spending, and when they really ran into rough sledding in the high degree of deficits, they blamed Ronald Reagan.

As a member of the Committee on Ways and Means and a Member of Congress, I can assure the American public listening to me that the only persons who can effectuate tax cuts, spending proposals are the Members of Congress, the House and the Senate, as prescribed by the Constitution.

Yes, President Reagan recommended tax cuts, and he was successful in convincing Congress to pass them, but along the way they were careless in not reducing spending to offset that reduced amount income. So we borrowed against the legacy of future generations to fund the programs that were near and dear to the hearts of Members of this body. We have a chance to do something different now. When we proposed paying down the debt and balancing the budget, we were told by

then-President Clinton we could not do it in 13 years, maybe 11 if we tried hard. Lo and behold, we suggested 7, we did it in 4, and now we have what is surplus dollars in the Treasury.

The call from the other side is to spend, spend, spend more money on priorities. I think if you listened to the President clearly last night, he outlined priorities that meet the test of time, are designed to help society's most vulnerable, are prepared to protect our domestic tranquility and our national security and really go about changing the fundamental way we conduct our mathematical equation here in this body.

Now, my colleagues can complain and can obfuscate and can deride his proposals, but I believe in my heart that at the end of the day they will come around to suggest and recommend that these are not irresponsible cuts.

Mr. Speaker, I remember last year when we proposed, I believe, some \$600 billion, potentially \$700 billion tax relief to the constituents, we call it tax relief, but it is really refunding of overpayment, we were told that number was exorbitant. It was out of sight, it was out of mind. It would explode the deficit.

Yet, I hear the number bandied about by the other side of the aisle that they may accept \$900 billion. What a difference a year makes. What a difference a year makes.

Let us focus on trying to resolve first and foremost our disagreements on key policy issues, but let us also take a moment to recognize the hard work of every American who sends their money to Washington and hope they can do some good with it, hope we can improve the infrastructure of our Nation's highways, strengthen Social Security, provide for the military pay increase as necessary and do the kind of things that society should do for its constituents.

As the President suggested last night, charities are no replacement for government, and I am a supporter of some of the involvement government has in our daily lives. But if we keep the money here, if we keep it on the table, and we suggest somehow we will pay down the debt, folks, get with it and get real, it will not happen.

Once there is an excess of money left on the table, there is a program in every Member's district that deserves that surplus, and we will argue and we will debate and we will spend.

Let us join together, support the President's initiative, give the taxpayers some real relief, give them some of their overpayment of surplus revenues back to them so they can spend it in their communities, on their children, figuring out their future and letting the government take less of their take-home pay on a weekly basis.

## ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 70), and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 70

*Resolved*, That the following named Member be, and he is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Small Business: Ms. CAPITO of West Virginia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WU addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

## PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE 107TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, pursuant to Rule XI, clause 2(a) of the Rules of the House, a copy of the Rules of the Committee on Agriculture, which were adopted at the organizational meeting of the Committee on February 14, 2001.

Appendix A of the Committee Rules will include excerpts from the Rules of the House relevant to the operation of the Committee. Appendix B will include relevant excerpts from the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. In the interests of minimizing printing costs, Appendices A and B are omitted from this submission.

### RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) Applicability of House Rules.—(1) The Rules of the House of Representatives shall govern the procedure of the committee and its subcommittees, and the Rules of the Committee on Agriculture so far as applicable shall be interpreted in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives, except that a motion to recess from day to day, and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution, if printed copies are available, are non-debatable privileged motions in the committee and its subcommittees. (See appendix A for the applicable Rules of the House of Representatives.)

(2) As provided in clause 1(a)(2) of House rule XI, each subcommittee is part of the committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the committee and its rules so far as applicable. (See also committee rules III, IV, V, VI, VII and X, *infra*.)